



B O R O U G H O F D R O I T W I C H

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

and of the

S A N I T A R Y I N S P E C T O R

for the year 1948.



BOROUGH OF DORDRECHT

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year 1946.

TO THE CORPORATION OF THE BOROUGH OF DROITWICH

Your Worship, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my
report upon the public health of the Borough for the year 1948.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS.

Area	1735 acres
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid 1948	5490
Number of inhabited houses (and of 1947) according to Rate Books	1560
Rateable Value	£39003.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£151. 0. 0d.

The following are extracts from the vital statistics for the
year:-

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	116	56	60
Illegitimate	3	2	1

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the resident population (estimated)-21.7
Birth Rate for England and Wales- 17.9

Still Births.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

The Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population 0.18
The Still Birth Rate per 1,000 England and Wales 0.42

<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female.</u>
	70	35	35

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population - 12.75
Death Rate England and Wales same period - 10.8

Deaths from PUERPERAL CAUSES - Nil

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	2	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Infantile Mortality Rate for the year - 16.8
Infantile Mortality Rate England and Wales - 34.0.

It is pleasing to note that the Infantile Mortality Rate
for the Borough is much below the average rate for England and
Wales for the second year in succession.

Your Worship, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Deaths occurring from special causes during the year:-

	1945	1946	1947	1948.
Deaths from cancer (all ages)	8	11	14	14
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	(Nil)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Deaths from Whoop-ing Cough (all ages)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	Nil	1	Nil	Nil

Causes of Death.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	4	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	0	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	1
Cancer	8	6
Heart Disease	10	13
Other diseases of circulatory system	Nil	3
Bronchitis	1	2
Pneumonia	2	Nil
Digestive diseases	1	1
Other Violent causes	1	Nil
Other causes	3	5
Suicide	1	Nil
Appendicitis	1	1
Other Digestive Disorders	1	1

<u>Female.</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Total</u>
-	-	(1)

The Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population 0.19
The Still Birth Rate per 1,000 England and Wales 0.48

<u>Female.</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Total</u>
25	25	50

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population - 12.75
Death Rate England and Wales same period - 10.8

Deaths from Puerperal Causes - Nil

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Total</u>
1	1	2

Infantile Mortality Rate for the year - 12.8
Infantile Mortality Rate England and Wales - 24.0

It is pleasing to note that the Infantile Mortality Rate for the Borough is much below the average rate for England and Wales for the second year in succession.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Services.

These are provided at the County Council's Laboratory in Worcester.

Ambulance Facilities.

These are provided by the County Council.

Nursing in the Home.

Two nurse midwives are working in the Borough. They attend Maternity cases and cases of general illness.

Health visiting in the district is carried out by one of the County Council's Health Visitors.

Hospitals.

The district is served by hospitals in Worcester and Birmingham. Cases of infectious disease are admitted to Hill Top Isolation Hospital, Bromsgrove.

Treatment for cases of Tuberculosis is provided at Knightwick Sanatorium and Hill Top Hospital.

Maternity cases, if admission to a hospital is necessary, can be admitted to the Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital at Stourport, The Mary Stevens Maternity Home at Stourbridge, or Rigby Hall Maternity Home at Bromsgrove.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

The County Council's Infant Welfare Clinic is held in the Baptist Church Hall, Droitwich every Tuesday afternoon. Children can be immunised against Diphtheria at this centre.

During the year the following attendances were made at the Clinic:-

Attendances of children under 1 year of age	1122
Attendances of children 1 to 5 years of age	709

The County Council's ante-natal clinic is held on the 1st and 3rd. Wednesday morning in each month at the Baptist Church Hall.

During the year 265 attendances were made at this clinic.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

No changes were made in these services during the year. The Disposal works were kept under supervision and samples taken of the effluent proved to be satisfactory.

2. Water Supply.

The water supply to the Borough, purchased in bulk from the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company, continued to be adequate both in quantity and quality throughout the year. Samples were taken for analysis and gave satisfactory results. The County Analyst's report on a sample of this water is given below.

The majority of dwelling houses in the town have a water supply direct from the public mains, with the exception of outlying farms and cottages which have a supply from wells.

Number of standpipes in the area	12
Number of Wells in the area	15

The County Analyst's report on a sample of water:-

<u>Physical Characters.</u>	Clear
Odour	None
Deposit	None
<u>Chemical Examination</u>	pH 7.4 (Results expressed in parts per 100,000)
Solids in Suspension	(Dried at 100° C) None
Solids in Solution	(Dried at 100° C) 23
" "	After Ignition 15
Chlorides calculated as Common Salt	3.4
Hardness Permanent	9
" Temporary	11
" Total	20
Free and Saline Ammonia	0.003
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.002
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	Trace
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	None
Oxygen Absorbed in 4 hours at 27° C. (N/80 Permanganate)	None
Toxic Metals.	None detected
Free Chlorine on receipt	0.002

Note. To convert the above parts per 100,000 to grains per gallon, Multiply by 0.7

Bacteriological Examination.

Number of Colonies Developing upon Agar	
(a) in two days at 37° C	Nil per one ml.
(b) in three days at 22° C	Nil per one ml.
Coli-Aerogenes (Presumptive Coli) Count	Nil per 100 ml.

Opinion:-

The sample is fit for drinking
(Signed) M.M. Love, County Analyst.
8th May 1948.

SECTION C continued.

3. Smoke Abatement.

No action was taken in this matter during the year.

4. Swimming Bath.

The open air Swimming Bath in the Brine Baths Park was kept under supervision during the year.

Samples of the water taken for analysis were found to be satisfactory.

5. Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

This was carried on as usual, and full details of this work are given below in Mr. Robinson's report.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

It is pleasing to report that good progress was made in the building of new Council Houses during the year with the result that some of the worst cases of overcrowding were relieved.

When insanitary houses became vacant during the year as a result of the Council rehousing the Tenants, it was possible in some cases to get an undertaking from the owner that the house would only be relet to selected Tenants, thus avoiding a repetition of the overcrowding in these houses which will, it is hoped, be considered for demolition when the shortage of houses becomes less acute.

Number of new houses erected during the year:-

(1) By the local authority	66
(2) By other local authorities	-
(3) By other bodies or persons	3

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:-

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	180
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	180
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (include under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	72
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	88
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	-
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	149

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	62
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3. Action under Statutory powers during the year.

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 & 16 of the Housing Act 1936 :-

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	None.
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :-	
(a) By owners	None.
(b) By local authority in default of owners	None.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :-

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	None.
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	
(a) By owners	None.
(b) By local authority in default of owners	None.

SECTION D continued:-

- (c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made None
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. None
- (d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:
- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made None
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit. None

4. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV. Overcrowding.

- (a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year. No accurate figures available
- (2) Number of families dwelling therein -
- (3) Number of persons dwelling therein -
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.
- (c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year. 20
- (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases 81
- (3) Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved -

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

This work was carried out as usual during the year and details are given below in Mr. Robinson's report.

Visits of inspection were paid to Ice Cream Manufacturers in the Town.

The inspection and supervision of food is of particular importance in a Town such as Droitwich, to which large numbers of visitors come each year.

The Sanitary Inspector gave a lecture to a group of food handlers with the object of educating them to a higher standard of hygiene.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

During the year, 94 children completed a full course of immunisation and 10 children received a reinforcing dose.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Particulars of cases of infectious disease occurring during the year.

Disease.	Total Cases	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	3	2	Nil
Diphtheria	Nil	Nil	Nil
Measles	101	3	Nil
Whooping Cough	7	Nil	Nil
Erysipelas	2	1	Nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	Nil	Nil
Primary Pneumonia	Nil	Nil	2 Transferred Deaths.

An analysis of the total notified cases are tabulated below according to age groups:-

Age Group	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Diphtheria	Erysipelas.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Whooping Cough	Primary Pneumonia
Under 1 year.	-	4	-	-	1	-	-
1-	-	12	-	-	-	1	-
2-	-	15	-	-	-	1	-
3-	-	19	-	-	-	1	-
4-	-	19	-	-	-	1	-
5-	3	29	-	-	-	3	-
10-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
35-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
65 & over	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	3	101	-	2	1	7	-

Continued-

TUBERCULOSIS

Particulars of new cases and deaths from tuberculosis are as follows

NEW CASES (e)					DEATHS			
Age Periods	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
15	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
25	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & over	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Total	4	3	Nil	Nil	2	1	Nil	Nil

The number of cases of tuberculosis on the Register at the end of December 1946 and 1947 and 1948 were as follows:-

(e)

Pulmonary Cases		Non-Pulmonary Cases	
	M. F.		M. F.
1946	16 12	2 5	
1947	16 10	2 5	
1948	17 8	2 4	

No action was taken in 1948 under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925, (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade) or under section 17 of the Public Health Act 1936, (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

I wish to express my thanks to members of the Council and to the Town Clerk and other Officers for their help and co-operation throughout the year.

I am,
Your obedient servant

MARGARET C.FELL

Medical Officer of Health.

Borough Surveyor's Dept.

Town Hall,

Droitwich

June 1949.

To the Chairman & Members of the

Droitwich Town Council.

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my fourth Annual Report upon my work as Sanitary Inspector to your Council, in which I have included many details of the work of the Engineers and Surveyor's Department.

Once again may I thank your Council for the continued support you have given me in my duties and also I would thank the Town Clerk and other Officials, together with the Staff of my Department for their assistance.

I have summarised the many inspections made during the year in the following statement:-

Visits of inspection to Stalls Farm Estate and Roundabouts Estate	310
" " " " direct labour and Contract Works.	126
Inspection of new buildings under the Building Byelaws.	151
" re maintenance of Highways.	98
" re public water supply.	15
" of Factories including Bakehouses.	15
" of Sea Bathing Lido Swimming Pool.	7
Visits re maintenance of Canal.	11
Inspections of Food Shops	36
" of Cowsheds.	8
Visits to Council Houses re repairs.	45
" re supervision of Sewage Works and Refuse Tip.	21
" re supervision of Parks and Open Spaces.	43
Samples taken for analysis, including milk, sewage, water, icecream, and Swimming Bath Water.	20
Number of houses inspected for housing defects.	180
Miscellaneous visits not otherwise recorded.	175
	<hr/>
	1261

Housing.

Housing still remains the major problem before your Council. Better progress was shown at the Stalls Farm Estate when 62 houses were occupied during the year, 28 were in progress and 18 let to Contract.

A further small Estate was in progress known as the Roundabouts Estate where 4 houses were occupied and 8 in progress.

Once again a measure of private house building was permitted after July of this year and by December 3 Houses were in course of erection from this source, and 3 were completed during the year.

Existing Houses.

20 cases of overcrowding were relieved, but there are still many cases of unsatisfactory housing conditions. The clearance of Unfit Houses is ever in the background, and whilst the pressing problem of providing houses for those without them is continually before your Council, full attention cannot yet be given to the Unfit House, which in itself does not improve as the years pass by, though many of the tenants of such houses realise the housing position and do not press their needs as strongly as they otherwise would.

Some owners of such properties knowing the short life of their houses do as little repair as possible to them and frequently sell as soon as ever one becomes vacant, often selling to someone who is prepared to buy anything to get a roof over his head. The purchaser provides himself and probably the Local Authority with a problem for the future.

Efforts are still being maintained to see that persons with families do not become the tenants of Unfit Houses which have fallen vacant because of the re-housing of the Tenants by the Council.

Much work in the systematic inspection, recording and classification of houses and their conditions awaits attention, such work would undoubtedly result in many repairs being carried out, and a programme should now be prepared for attention when the time is appropriate. The additional Sanitary Inspector when appointed will be able to carry out much useful work in this sphere.

House Letting.

A review of the number of applicants for Council Houses was in progress at the close of the year and following the review it was anticipated that the number of applicants would still be some 300.

The letting of houses by the Points Scheme was continued during the year and there is little doubt that this Scheme has generally worked well and fairly, and has given the public confidence in the way houses are let.

The waiting period of 2 years before the applicants qualify for the allocation of points has operated well and resulted in many of the deserving local families obtaining tenancies and many difficult cases have been rehoused.

The splitting of the applicants into groups was under consideration at the close of the year, with a view to the allocation of houses to local men forced out of the town by the housing conditions, and incoming workers receiving fair treatment proportionate to their needs and numbers.

Food Inspection.

Visits of Inspection have been made to Bakehouses, Cowsheds and Dairies, and Ice Cream producers and retailers in the Borough, but the full attention warranted by this important matter cannot be given to it, and your Council were hoping to appoint an additional Sanitary Inspector to assist in the work.

Generally conditions were found to be satisfactory, but with the large number of visitors coming to Droitwich, the importance of food hygiene cannot be over emphasized.

Education of the workers in the food trades as to the importance of cleanliness is one of the best ways of improving standards of cleanliness. To this end I gave a talk to all the employees of the largest Ice Cream producer in the Borough, they were all interested and I feel the time was profitably spent.

Rodent Control.

No large infestations of Rats have been found in the Borough. Where cases of Rat infestation are found, your General Foreman, a trained operator advises the property owner or tenant and if necessary undertakes the work of p-oisoning.

Scavenging & Public Cleansing.

A regular weekly collection of refuse has been made during the year, with 3 visits per week to the larger Hotels.

Refuse Collection is also gradually being extended to all outlying domestic premises.

Street cleansing has been regularly carried out, the centre of the Town is swept daily and the remainder of the built up area weekly, street orderly trucks are used for the purpose.

A quarterly street gully emptying Contract is in operation which has resulted in all the street gullies being maintained in a clean and workable condition, emptying is carried out by a suction tanker efficiently and without any unsightly deposit on the carriageway.

Refuse disposal is by controlled tipping. Control of rodents, fire and insect life being carefully exercised.

Salvage collection has continued and the following amounts have been collected during the year:-

	1948			1947		
	T.	C.	Qrs.	T.	C.	Qrs.
Paper	33.	15.	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	33.	2.	1.
Rags		12.	3.		8.	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bones		-	-		5.	1.
Scrap Iron	4.	11.	2.	2.	8.	0.
Bottles and jars		304 $\frac{1}{2}$	dozen.		548	dozen.

Sampling.

The following samples were taken and despatched to the County Analyst for analysis. I am pleased to report that in each instance they were found to be satisfactory:-

Water	3
Sewage	4
Lido Swimming Bath	5
Ice Cream	7
Milk	1

Erection of New Buildings & Administration of Building Bye-laws.

Regular visits of inspection were made to all buildings in course of erection to ensure their compliance with the building bye-laws. Until July these buildings were chiefly of a temporary nature, but with the issue of licences permitting the erection of houses again, a number of new houses were in course of construction at the end of the year.

With the raising of the licensing limit of work permitted without a licence to £500 on property other than dwelling houses and £100 for dwelling houses, the number of licences issued dropped considerably.

Factory Development.

Suitable industrial firms are now being attracted to the Town and care is being taken to ensure their operating in the part of the Town zoned for Industry.

Your Council decided to purchase land to lease for industrial purposes as a Trading Estate and in November an Inquiry was held by the Ministry of Town & Country Planning into the Corporation's application for a compulsory purchase Order. At the end of the year a decision was still awaited.

The number of firms which have commenced operating in the Town during and since the war is now very varied and as they become established they should add to the Towns' prosperity.

These include:-

Soap Manufacturing	Cycle Manufacturing.
Spring Making	Electric Motor Assembly
Greenhouse Construction	Manufacturers of Ice Cream
Hardware Production	Construction of Childrens' Toys.
Aluminium Casting	Preparation of Plastics for the Lining of Tanks.
Assembly of General Merchandise	Furniture making and upholstering.
Manufacture of Concrete Products.	Oil Heater Construction.

The Abercrombie Report upon the Midlands known as the West Midland Plan recommends an increase in the population of Droitwich to 10,000 and bearing in mind the development in hand this seems quite a possibility in the foreseeable future.

Highways.

Works upon Highways confined themselves essentially to repairs and maintenance of carriageways and footpaths.

A number of major works are needed and it is to be hoped that the Ministry of Transport will permit such works again before long.

No action has been taken towards the making up of the private streets of Alexander Avenue, Florence Avenue and Lyttelton Road, though estimates for the work in respect of the two first roads were prepared and submitted to the owners.

With development recommencing in all three roads, I am of opinion that your Council should now consider taking steps to make up and adopt Florence Avenue and part of Alexander Avenue at least.

Sewers and Sewage Disposal Works.

These have been maintained in good order and a satisfactory effluent has been produced at the Sewage Works.

The 12" Sewer extended along Newland Road has been developed to its full length on the West side and 172 yards of 6" Sewer and 212 yards of 9" were laid to allow further development in Tagwell Road.

Water Supply.

Water supply continues to be purchased in bulk from the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company, and has been maintained satisfactorily both as regards quantity and quality during the year.

Water consumed during 1948 was 103,510,000 gallons an average of 283,600 gallons per day, as compared with 109,134,000 gallons averaging 298,997 gallons per day for 1947.

Unfortunately the scheme for increased Reservoir storage could not proceed owing to the economic situation of the Country. This scheme is in abeyance until a more opportune time presents itself, but I would stress its importance particularly with the steady growth of the Town.

Parks Administration.

Your Public Parks and Playing Fields were maintained in as satisfactory a condition as the staff available will allow.

No new works have been carried out during the year.

The King George Playing Field is showing considerable improvement as a result of the work put in to it. This field is now being much used by the various sports organisations in the Town, and at the close of the year a scheme for improved drainage was in preparation.

I am Sir, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

GRAHAM L. ROBINSON.

Borough Engineer & Surveyor.

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I am Sir, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

CHARLES J. ROBINSON.

Borough Engineer & Surveyor.